

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 8, now cancelled.

This amendment does not present any new issue.

Claims 1-3, 5-9 and 13-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Pribil U.S. 1,350,177. To the extent that this rejection would be applied to claim 1 as presently amended, such rejection is traversed for the reasons following.

Pribil discloses a method of making a connecting rod from a sheet metal blank having a pair of sleeve parts having axial end surfaces and connected by a web (see Figs. 1-6). As such, the initial steps for making the connecting rod yield a workpiece which is similar to the blank recited in the preamble of Applicant's claim 1. However the ensuing steps yield a connecting rod which is very different than the tubular body recited in the body of applicant's claim 1.

Figure 8 of Pribil shows that the workpiece is cut in half to form two connecting rod sections having respective shanks 1 which are subsequently fixed together by "riveting, spot welding or any other fastening means" (page 2, lines 94-98). As such, the connecting rod of Pribil cannot meet applicant's claim limitation to sleeve parts connected by a connecting web. The web of Pribil has been cut in half, and the resulting shanks are connected by other means, not by the web.

Another distinction between applicant's claim 1 and the connecting rod of Pribil is that the end bosses 4, 5 which are drawn from the circular ends 3 to form the wrist pin end of the connecting rod have mutually facing axial ends which are coplanar with the shanks 1. That is, as seen in Figures 7 and 10, the shanks are connected together flushly so that the connecting rod as the same "I" cross section as a conventional forged connecting rod. To the extent that the bosses 4, 5 are seen as applicant's sleeve parts and the shanks 1 are seen as applicant's connecting web, the sleeve parts do not each have a length which extends between the web and the respective mutually

facing end. Rather, the sleeve parts (bosses 4, 5) each have a length which extends away from both the web (shank 1) and the respective mutually facing end.


Applicant's limitation to sleeve parts having a length extending between the web and the end yields a structure which is very different than the structure of Pribil. Rather than having the conventional I-cross section of a connecting rod, as exemplified by Pribil, the web forms a "U" whose cross-section is two spaced apart pieces formed by the arms of the U. While suitable for joining the sleeve parts of a joint eye, this structure would be most unsuitable for a connecting rod and is in no way suggested by Pribil.

Since claim 1 as presently amended is definite and patentably distinguishable from the applied art, withdrawal of the rejections and early allowance are requested. If any further rejection based on newly applied art should ensue, such rejection should be non-final since not necessitated by the present amendment, which merely combines the limitation of claim 8 into claim 1.

If any objections remains, a call to the undersigned is requested.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application; however, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: February 18, 2004